

COMMUNIQUÉ

Hazards Insurance Partnership (HIP) – Meeting 4

6 September 2023 – Canberra

The Hazards Insurance Partnership (HIP) met for the fourth time on Wednesday 6 September 2023.

- List of attendees – Attachment A
- Members endorsed the [Meeting Three Communiqué](#) prior to this meeting.

Current operating environment

National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Coordinator-General Brendan Moon AM (Chair) opened the meeting by noting that it was the first year anniversary of NEMA. The Chair reflected that in the past year, NEMA had been involved with over 200 disaster-related events, and noted insurers have played a key role in supporting these communities' recovery journeys. The Chair reflected on discussions about the challenges at the intersection of hazard risk and insurance at the recent Australia-New Zealand Emergency Management Committee meeting, and the National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting (NEMMM). In particular, the NEMMM noted the Australian Government's intention to take forward issues that had been raised at the NEMMM, including questions of how disaster risk reduction can best support improved insurance affordability and availability, to the HIP meeting in November 2023.¹

Update on Technical Working Group and Mitigation Working Group

The Australian Climate Service provided an update on the progress of the HIP's Technical Working Group and associated projects. Members discussed options for how to expedite data sharing between government and the insurance sector to support the objectives of the HIP.

NEMA provided an update on the HIP's Mitigation Working Group and associated projects. Members discussed how households could be better informed about reducing their risk, including opportunities for community engagement to support preparedness and risk reduction.

Reviews and consultation

Independent Reviewer Andrew Colvin AO APM was invited to present on the *Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding* (the Review). Members discussed the different but aligned roles of insurers, governments and communities in promoting disaster risk reduction to constrain growing recovery costs. Members invited Mr Colvin to discuss the findings of the Review once finalised.

Members were also consulted on the second round of the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF). NEMA provided an overview of Round 1, which saw \$200 million allocated to 187 projects across Australia to boost preparedness and resilience to natural disasters. Members discussed the design of Round 2 including a preference for prioritising flood related initiatives.

Related insurance engagement in Australian Government initiatives

Previous HIP meetings have identified the potential for further streamlining of Australian Government engagement with the insurance sector relating to climate and hazard risk. The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water presented an overview of the National Climate Risk Assessment, followed by a presentation on the Climate Vulnerability Assessment from the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the HIP will be held in late November 2023.

¹ *National Emergency Management Ministers' Meeting 25 August 2023 – Communiqué* [accessed at https://nema.gov.au/sites/default/files/inline-files/Final%20Communiqué%20NEMMM%2025%20August%202023_.pdf].



Attachment A: Attendee List

Insurance Council of Australia
Allianz
IAG
QBE
RACQ
Suncorp
Ministerial offices: The Office of the Assistant Treasurer The Office of the Minister for Emergency Management
National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
Australian Climate Service (ACS)
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC)
Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority (APRA)
Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC)
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
The Treasury
External: Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding team

